

## PUBLIC STATEMENTS OF ROCHELLE SWANSON AND SHERMAN SWANSON

MS. SWANSON: I am Rochelle Swanson, and I'm a student at B.D. Billingshurst Middle School.

MR. SWANSON: And I am Sherman Swanson, Rochelle's father.

MR. SWANSON: I do. I was yesterday at another town in Nevada, and we were discussing some land north of Elko. That land, we had done an analysis of how the stream was working, and it was not working properly. The reason it wasn't working properly is largely because there was a U.S. government stream channelization project in the '60s done by a conservation agency of the government.

So the point is, trust me, I'm from the government, I'm here to help you, and it doesn't wash very well. Why doesn't it? Well, there are a number of faulty assumptions built into the report.

1 There's some analysis of the local geology. The problem is that the local geology is part of a very large context. The context is the intermountain basin and range country which is a very thin part of the earth's crust. Therefore, it is stretching, bulging and subject to fairly massive earth movements, volcanism and earthquakes in the future that are simply unknowable at the present time other than they are more likely here than virtually any other place on the continent except perhaps from right along the Rim of Fire along the Pacific Ocean. But of course, it's the action over there that is driving, actually pulling the crust apart in Nevada, and it's that pulling apart of the crust that is particularly worrisome to me.

But it is not the only worry.

2... Another part of the assumptions built into the analysis are the hydrologic assumptions. I have spent my life in a profession that is just now awakening to the fact that climate has changed pretty dramatically and is going to change very dramatically in the future. That may not be a problem for the present generation, but of course, it's a tremendous problem for future generations, and it's for the future generations that really motivates me to come here because we are proposing to dispose of nuclear waste that will be toxic for longer than all civilizations have existed on earth. That is frankly

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an immoral act.

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The only way that we can justify such an act is if we put that in a geologic material that is actually stable. The Great Basin certainly is not that material. The only place on this continent where that material exists is in the shield part of this continent, and the shield part of this continent has two fatal flaws.

The first one is that it's close to people, and of course, that's the point. The second one is that it's wetter, and of course, that's the other point, because it is very likely, almost certainly going to be substantially wetter at Yucca Mountain in the future than it has been in the recent past, because our climate is going to change, and it's not going to get drier.

That's all I have to say.